

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 1-12.

Add the following new claims:

--13. (new) A method for monitoring a patient after the patient has been discharged from a medical facility, the method comprising the steps of:

at a location of the patient during the monitoring after the patient has been discharged from the medical facility, providing the patient with a written questionnaire that gathers from the patient data suitable for detecting in the patient at least one of pneumonia, secondary bleeding, a wound healing problem, a pulmonary complication, a urinary tract infection, and a thrombosis;

conveying the patient data in the written questionnaire to a data bank over a telephone connection using one of a voice transmission and a facsimile transmission; and

automatically evaluating the conveyed data with an evaluating device that is associated with the data bank.

--14. (new) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of monitoring receipt of the patient data at the data bank and sending a signal to at least one of the patient and a caregiver when the patient data are not received.

--15. (new) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of sending an alarm signal to at least one of the patient and a caregiver when the evaluating device indicates that

the patient data are critical.

--16. (new) A method for monitoring a patient after the patient has been discharged from a medical facility, the method comprising the steps of:

providing on a world wide web site a questionnaire that is accessible with a computer at a location of the patient during the monitoring after the patient has been discharged from the medical facility and that is connected to a communication network;

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entering patient data in the questionnaire with the computer, the patient data being suitable for detecting in the patient at least one of pneumonia, secondary bleeding, a wound healing problem, a pulmonary complication, a urinary tract infection, and a thrombosis;

conveying the patient data in the questionnaire to a data bank over the communication network; and

automatically evaluating the patient data with an evaluating device that is associated with the data bank.

--17. (new) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of monitoring receipt of the patient data at the data bank and sending a signal to at least one of the patient and a caregiver when the patient data are not received.

--18. (new) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of sending an alarm signal to at least one of the patient and a caregiver when the evaluating device indicates that

the patient data are critical.

--19. (new) A system for monitoring a patient after the patient has been discharged from a medical facility, the system comprising:

a data bank at a location different from a location of the patient during the monitoring after the patient has been discharged from the medical facility, said data bank being arranged and adapted to store patient data suitable for detecting in the patient at least one of pneumonia, secondary bleeding, a wound healing problem, a pulmonary complication, a urinary tract infection, and a thrombosis, the patient data being in a written questionnaire at the location of the patient during the monitoring;

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a telephone connection that connects said data bank to the location of the patient during the monitoring and that is arranged and adapted to convey the patient data in the written questionnaire to said data bank with one of a voice transmission and a facsimile transmission;

an evaluation device that is operatively connected to said data bank and that is arranged and adapted to evaluate the patient data in said data bank; and

an alarm for generating an alarm signal in response to an indication from said evaluation device that the patient data are critical.

--20. (new) The system of claim 19, wherein said data

bank is further arranged and adapted to monitor receipt of the patient data at said data bank and to send a signal to at least one of the patient and a caregiver when the patient data are not received.

--21. (new) A system for monitoring a patient after the patient has been discharged from a medical facility, the system comprising:

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a world wide web site with a questionnaire that is accessible with a computer at a location of the patient during the monitoring after the patient has been discharged from the medical facility and that is connected to a communication network, the questionnaire gathering patient data suitable for detecting in the patient at least one of pneumonia, secondary bleeding, a wound healing problem, a pulmonary complication, a urinary tract infection, and a thrombosis;

a data bank at a location different from the location of the patient during the monitoring, said data bank being connected to the communication network and arranged and adapted to receive and store the patient data in the questionnaire;

an evaluation device that is operatively connected to said data bank and that is arranged and adapted to evaluate the patient data in said data bank; and

an alarm for generating an alarm signal in response to an indication from said evaluation device that the patient data are critical.